

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-25, and 27-40 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1-6, 8-25, and 27-40 were rejected. With this Amendment, claims 21 and 29 are amended, no claims are added, and claims 1-20 and 36-40 are cancelled without prejudice. Accordingly, claims 21-25 and 27-35 are at issue.

Applicants' undersigned attorney appreciates the indication by the Examiner that claims 21-25 and 27-35 would be allowable if base claims 21 and 29 were rewritten or amended to overcome the claim objections set forth in the December 11, 2006 Office Action. Applicants respectfully submit that the objections to claims 21 and 29 are overcome by this Amendment. As all other claims are canceled, Applicants submit that the application is in form for allowance.

I. Objection To Claims

Claims 21 and 29 were objected to on the basis of insufficient antecedent basis.

Applicants respectfully submit that the objections are moot in view of the present amendments.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 112 Indefiniteness Rejection of Claims

Claims 1-20 and 36-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections are moot in view of the present amendments.

III. 35 U.S.C. § 102 Anticipation Rejection of Claims

Claims 1, 9, 36, 38, and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Bianco et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,256,737). Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections are moot in view of the present amendments.

IV. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claims

Claims 1-3, 8, 10, 36, 37, 39, and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Dulude et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,310,966) in view of *Schneier* “Applied Cryptography”, 1996, pp. 31-32.. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Dulude et al.* in view of *Schneier*, “Applied Cryptography”, 1996, pp. 31-32 as applied to claim 1 and further in view of *Vaeth et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,035,402).

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Dulude et al.* in view of *Schneier*, “Applied Cryptography”, 1996, pp. 31-32 as applied to claim 1 and further in view of *Hughes* (“Digital Envelopes and Signatures”, InstantDoc #2698, WindowsITPro, September 1996).

Claims 4 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Bianco* as applied to claim 1 above in view of *Diffie et al.*, “Authentication and Authenticated Key Exchanges”, *Designs, Codes and Cryptography*, Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1992.

Claims 12-14, 16-18, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Yu et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,930,804) in view of *Schneier*, “Applied Cryptography”, 1996, pp. 31-32.

Claims 19 and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Yu et al.* in view of *Dulude et al.* further in view of *Schneier*, "Applied Cryptography", 1996, pp. 31-32 as applied to claims 12 and 29 and further in view of *Oishi* (U.S. Patent No. 6,298,153).

Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Yu et al.* in view of *Dulude et al.* further in view of *Schneier*, "Applied Cryptography", 1996, pp. 31-32 as applied to claims 12 and 29 in view of *Diffie et al.*

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections are moot in view of the present amendments.

V. Nonstatutory Obviousness-type Double Patenting

Claims 1-5, 7, 10, 12-15, 36-38, and 40 were rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 9, 10, and 40 of U.S. Patent No. 7,059,516 in view of *Schneier*, "Applied Cryptography", 1996, pp. 31-32.

Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 10, 12, 13, 36, 37, 39, and 40 were provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 2, 5, 12, and 24 of copending Application No. 09/944,424 in view of *Schneier*, "Applied Cryptography", 1996, pp. 31-32.

Claims 1-5, 7, 10, 12-15, 36-38, and 40 were provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 3, 9, and 11 of copending Application No. 09/944,501 in view of *Schneier*, "Applied Cryptography", 1996, pp. 31-32.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections are moot in view of the present amendments.

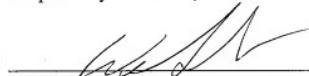
VI. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all claims are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully request early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:


A. Wesley Ferrebee
Registration No. 51,312
SONNENSCHEIN NATH & ROSENTHAL LLP
P.O. Box 061080
Wacker Drive Station, Sears Tower
Chicago, Illinois 60606-1080
(312) 876-8000